

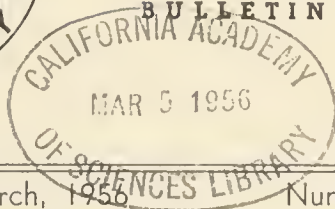
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THE
MONTHLY



QUAIL

BULLETIN



Volume 38

Berkeley, California, March, 1956

Number 3

JANUARY TRIP TO ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

High wind and heavy rainfall on the morning of January 14 prevented many persons from attending the scheduled field-trip at St. Mary's College. No one showed up at the Berkeley meeting place, but eight eager (and soon sodden) observers, including a visitor from Utah, met at the campus and then examined the reservoir and vicinity within two miles. The following 34 species were listed: Ruddy Duck, 6; Red-tailed Hawk, 6; Sparrow Hawk, 1; California Quail, 1; Am. Coot, 11; Killdeer, 1; Wilson's Snipe, 1; Mourning Dove, 124; Anna's Hummingbird, 5; Red-shafted Flicker, 3; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Black Phoebe, 2; Steller's Jay, 5; Scrub Jay, 3; Chestnut-backed Chickadee, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 1; Wren-tit, 1; Marsh Wren, 3; Am. Robin, 354; Varied Thrush, 6; Western Bluebird, 1; Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Loggerhead Shrike, 3; Audubon's Warbler, 1; Western Meadowlark, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 40; Brewer's Blackbird, 43; House Finch, 5; (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, 143; Spotted Towhee, 2; Brown Towhee, 20; Oregon Junco, 4; White-crowned Sparrow, 30; Golden-crowned Sparrow, 32.

In addition, during the previous week at this locality, Dr. A. S. Campbell saw Pied-billed Grebe, a hybrid Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Say's Phoebe, Common Bush-tit, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hutton's Vireo, House Sparrow, Pine Siskin, Fox Sparrow, and Lincoln's Sparrow. Total for the week here, 43 species and 1 hybrid.

— RICHARD STALLCUP, *Historian.*

JANUARY TRIP TO TOMALES BAY

Rain continuing from the numerous end-of-the-year storms did not deter nearly 30 persons from appearing at Point Reyes Station on January 22, 1956, to cover the Tomales Bay area in a number of parties operating simultaneously in different sections of it. One group covered the east side of the Bay north of the starting point, another the valley and marsh near Olema and to Inverness Park, two others the area from Inverness to McClure Beach (the Tomales Point road being impassable), and another the Point Reyes Road. Gathering at Inverness at noon, we were led to a particularly good part of the Bishop pine forest in the upper part of Tomales Bay State Park by ranger Jim Davis; and, after lunching at the cars during an especially wet period, a short hike down the Jepson trail took us through a very lush area with blossoming cur-

rants, many ferns, salal, berry bushes, etc., beneath the pines, laurels, and oaks. This added several species of birds to the combined list of the morning's five parties, bringing the total to the following 97 species:

Common Loon, Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, White Pelican, Brown Pelican, Double-crested Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, (Cackling) Canada Goose (1 on Point Reyes Road, Lee Stallcup), Black Brant (350), Canvas-back, Greater Scaup (3 at Inverness, LS), Com. Golden-eye, Buffle-head, White-winged Scoter, Surf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Red-breasted Merganser, Turkey Vulture (32), Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk (1, Alan Craig), Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, California Quail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe (6 in one field, HLC and party), Willet, Sandpipers sp.?, Dowitcher, Sanderling, Am. Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, Western Gull, Herring Gull, California Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Heermann's Gull (1), Band-tailed Pigeon, Anna's Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Steller's Jay, Scrub Jay, Com. Raven, Am. Crow (flock of 300 near Olema), Chestnut-backed Chickadee, Com. Bush-tit, Pygmy Nuthatch, Wren-tit, Winter Wren, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Rock Wren, Am. Robin, Varied Thrush (many), Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, (Am.) Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Com. Starling (70 on road toward McClure Beach; 700 on Pt. Reyes Road), Hutton's Vireo, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, Townsend's Warbler, Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tri-colored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Rufous-crowned Sparrow (near McClure Beach, A C), Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

The willing and able leadership provided by Messrs. H. G. Peterson, A. J. Bennett, Alan Craig, and Lee Stallcup is acknowledged with sincere thanks.

— H. L. COGSWELL, "*Coordinator*" and *Historian*.

FEBRUARY TRIP TO RITCHIE RANCH

Thirty-nine members and guests in a 13-car caravan explored the moist farmland, marshy ditches, and flooded fields in the Ritchie Ranch area west of Lodi, on Sunday, February 12. The weather was still, warm, and clear. Many thousands of waterfowl were in the air. In this area and on a side-trip in the afternoon to Courtland, where two Long-eared Owls were seen at close range on their regular winter roost, the following 88 species were noted: Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Snowy Egret, **Whistling Swan** (500), Canada Goose, White-fronted Goose, Mallard, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Shoveller, Am. Widgeon, Wood Duck, Canvas-back, Scaup sp.?, Buffle-head, Ruddy Duck, Turkey Vulture, White-tailed Kite, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, **Sandhill Crane** (100 or less), Florida Gallinule, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Wilson's Snipe, Long-billed Curlew, Greater Yellow-legs, **Lesser Yellow-legs** (2, with Greater—E. R. Pickett) [one of the few winter records in central California—Ed.], Dowitcher, California Gull, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Short-eared Owl, Red-shafted Flicker, Acorn Woodpecker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy

Woodpecker, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Say's Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Com. Raven, Am. Crow, Plain Titmouse, **Red-breasted Nuthatch**, Bewick's Wren, Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Am. Robin, Hermit Thrush, Western Bluebird, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, (Am.) Water Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, Myrtle Warbler, Audubon's Warbler, MacGillivray's Warbler (?) (Pete Wright), Yellow-throat, House Sparrow, Western Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Tri-colored Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, (Green-backed) Lesser Goldfinch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Oregon Junco, White-crowned Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Leader and Historian*.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our society: from Berkeley, Mrs. Helen W. Aiken, Mrs. John A. Thomas; from Oakland, Mrs. Myrtle Atkins; from Piedmont, Mr. Samuel Axtell; from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert R. Pirkner, Mrs. Elizabeth Land, Miss Marie L. Mans, and Miss Pearl Wagner.

— JEAN L. DUNHAM, M.D., *Membership Chairman*.

OBSERVATIONS

WARBLING VIREO, one seen at a feeder near Mt. Davidson, San Francisco, Feb. 14 (Bradley S. Sibley), this being either an extremely early or late vagrant; an albino BLACKBIRD (sp. ?) foraging with mixed flock of Red-wings and Brewer's Blackbirds between Clayton and Pittsburg, Feb. 12 (Lee Stallcup); STARLING, 2000 to 2500 on Feb. 12 near Novato, Marin Co., (Anna M. Smith) and EVENING GROSBEAK, 33 at San Anselmo, Jan. 22, eating maple seeds (Betty Connor *vide* AMS).

OFFICIAL NOTICES

Article 3 of the Articles of Incorporation of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc., as heretofore existing states, "The principal office of this corporation shall be located in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California." By action of the Board of Directors an amendment to this article is offered, reading: "The principal office of this corporation shall be located in the City of Berkeley, County of Alameda, State of California." In accordance with article X of the By-Laws this proposed amendment will be presented for action by the members present at the regular March meeting.

MARCH MEETING

The 462nd regular meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 8, in the auditorium of the Rotary Natural Science Center, near the bird-feeding area at Lake Merritt (Lakeside Park) in Oakland. Note change of location, and also announcement of amendment, above. From San Francisco take Key System line B to Grand Ave. at Perkins St.; walk one block down Perkins to the Center. Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, noted California naturalist, will speak on "The World's Smallest Birds, the Hummers." Mr. Alan Craig will also present as the Education Committee's Topic for the Month, "A Rare Tourist to our Coast, the Emperor Goose," illustrated by a short film taken recently by Laurel Reynolds near Santa Cruz.

— MRS. LAUREL REYNOLDS, *Program Chairman*.

FIELD TRIPS FOR MARCH

On Sunday, March 11, to MOSS LANDING, northern Monterey Co., an area with open beach, tidal lagoons, ponds, marshes, fields, and windbreaks. Elkhorn Slough here always harbors a good variety of waterbirds, and White-tailed Kites may be found nearby. Take Highway US-101 south of San Jose to the Monterey Peninsula cut-off (Route 156) 20 miles beyond Gilroy, thence right to Castroville, and right again (on Route 1) and proceed for 3 miles. Meet at 10 a.m. near the stone bridge over the slough just past the P.G.E. plant. Leader, C. Sather, PL 6-0581.

On Saturday, March 24, to TILDEN REGIONAL PARK (Nature Area and vicinity), n.e. of Berkeley. Oak-laurel-madrone woodland and eucalyptus groves, plus open grassy hills can be visited as well as the small pond and marsh, where Virginia and Sora rails are frequent. Orange-crowned Warbler, Western Flycatcher, and perhaps Warbling Vireo and other summer residents can be expected. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Reservoir at Spruce St. and Grizzly Peak Blvd. (no. 67 bus from Shattuck and University Aves., downtown Berkeley). Leader, Larry Curl, LA 6-7004.

Persons needing transportation on field trips who can meet drivers en-route in the city and those able to take such passengers (sharing of expenses suggested) will be put in contact if both will call the field trips chairman, LO 9-3185, by the preceding Thursday.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Field Trips Chairman.*

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917

- President.....Mrs. George C. Browne.....2435 Ivy Drive, Oakland 6, TW 3-5469
- Vice President.....Dr. T. Eric Reynolds.....140 Estates Dr., Piedmont 11, AN 1-7121
- Vice President.....Mrs. Budd J. Smith.....555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 16, OV 1-7635
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- Membership
Chairman.....Dr. Jean L. Dunham.....4607 Harbord Dr., Oakland 18, HU 3-1591

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Distribution Chairman. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$5.00 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately, \$1.00 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 2426 Bancroft Way
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